

List of people who have been considered deities

This is a list of notable people who were considered deities by themselves or others.

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Imperial cults and cults of personality



Who	Image	When	Notability
<u>Pharaohs</u>		3150 BCE– 30 BCE	Egyptian pharaohs were kings of Ancient Egypt, and were considered gods by their culture. Their titles equated them with aspects of the likes of the hawk god <u>Horus</u> , the vulture goddess <u>Nekhbet</u> , and the cobra-goddess <u>Wadjet</u> . The Egyptians believed that when their Pharaoh died, he would continue to lead them in the next life, which is why his burial was grand and completed to perfection—to please him in the next life and ensure his immortality to protect his people. See <u>List of pharaohs</u> . ^{[1][2]}
<u>Japanese emperors</u>		??? – 1945 ^[3]	Claimed, at least by some Shintoists, including government officials, to be divine descendants of the goddess <u>Amaterasu</u> . Hirohito, the Shōwa emperor, repudiated the "false conception" of his divinity in the <u>Humanity Declaration</u> in 1945. ^[4]
<u>Chinese emperors</u>		221 BCE– 1911 CE	Deified as "Sons of Heaven", at least by some <u>Confucianists</u> , since the <u>Qin Dynasty</u> under <u>Qin Shi Huang</u> . ^[5]
<u>Roman emperors</u>		42 BCE – 363 CE	Following Julius Caesar who in 42 BCE was formally deified as "the Divine Julius", and <u>Caesar Augustus</u> henceforth became <i>Divi filius</i> ("Son of the Divine One"), some (not all) Roman Emperors of the 1st to 4th centuries claimed divinity, including <u>Tiberius</u> 14–37, <u>Caligula</u> 37–41, <u>Claudius</u> 41–54, <u>Hadrian</u> 117–138, <u>Commodus</u> 161–192, <u>Constantine I</u> 306–312, <u>Julian the Apostate</u> 361–363
<u>Natchez rulers</u>		700 – 1730 CE	The Natchez were a theocracy ruled by "The Great Sun." This ruler has sometimes been deemed a God-king. ^[6]
<u>Purnawarman</u>		395 – 434 CE	The king of <u>Sundanese</u> indianised kingdom called <u>Tarumanagara</u> . According to these inscriptions he embarked on hydraulic project ^{[7]:53–54} and also identified himself to <u>Vishnu</u> , which indicates him and his kingdom were adhering <u>Vishnuite</u> faith.
The <u>Sailendras</u>		7th–11th century CE	The <u>Sailendra</u> dynasty of <u>Java</u> were active promoters of <u>Mahayana Buddhism</u> and covered the plains of <u>Central Java</u> with Buddhist monuments, including the world-famous <u>Borobudur</u> . ^[8]
<u>Majapahit kings</u>		1293–1597	Javanese rulers of South East Asia's largest ever kingdom, in <u>Indonesia</u> . After death, they were depicted as Hindu gods (see for instance <u>Raden Wijaya</u>).
<u>Dalai Lamas</u>		1391– present	Considered re-incarnations of <u>Avalokiteśvara</u> in <u>Tibetan Buddhism</u> . <u>Panchen Lamas</u> are incarnations of <u>Amitābha</u> . ^{[9][10][11]}
<u>Inca emperors</u>		1438–1533	The Inca Emperors had a status very similar to that of the Pharaohs of Egypt.





<u>Nepalese kings</u>		1768–2008	In <u>Nepal</u> , the kings of the <u>Shah dynasty</u> were considered incarnations of <u>Vishnu</u> . ^[12]
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Posthumous deification

Who	Image	When	Notability
<u>Gilgamesh</u>		Sometime between 2800 BCE and 2500 BCE ^[13]	Most historians generally agree that Gilgamesh was a historical king of the Sumerian city-state of Uruk, ^{[14][13]} who probably ruled sometime during the early part of the Early Dynastic Period (c. 2900–2350 BCE). ^{[14][13]} It is certain that, during the later Early Dynastic Period, Gilgamesh was worshipped as a god at various locations across Sumer. ^[14] In the twenty-first century BCE, <u>Utu-hengal</u> , the king of Uruk adopted Gilgamesh as his patron deity. ^[14] The kings of the Third Dynasty of Ur were especially fond of Gilgamesh, calling him their "divine brother" and "friend". ^[14] During this period, a large number of myths and legends developed surrounding him. ^[14] Probably during the Middle Babylonian Period (c. 1600 BCE – c. 1155 BCE), a scribe named <u>Sîn-lēqi-unninni</u> composed the <i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i> , an epic poem written in Akkadian narrating Gilgamesh's heroic exploits. ^[14] The opening of the poem describes Gilgamesh as "one-third human, two-thirds divine". ^[14]
<u>Imhotep</u>		2600 BCE	Ancient Egyptian architect and physician whose status, two thousand years after his death, was raised to that of a god, becoming the god of medicine and healing. He was an Egyptian chancellor to the pharaoh <u>Djoser</u> , probable architect of the <u>Djoser's step pyramid</u> , and high priest of the sun god Ra at Heliopolis. The gradual deification of Imhotep seems to have been completed about 525 BCE. His divinity is clearly attested an inscription, adjacent to his picture in the Ptolemaic temple at Kasr el-Agouz, near Luxor: „Son of Ptah, beneficent god, begotten by the god of the south wall (Ptah), giver of life, who bestows gifts on those he loves, who listen (to those who call upon him), who provides remedies for all diseases“. Imhotep's deification led to the deification of his mother named Kheredu-anhk and his wife Renpetnefert. In Memphis and on the sacred Island of Philae existed temples dedicated to him. The Greeks identified Imhotep with their own divine healer and physician, Asclepius (which also healed people in their dreams). ^[15]
<u>Queen Dido of Carthage</u>		814 BCE	Founder and first queen of Carthage, after her death, she was deified by her people with the name of <u>Tanit</u> and assimilated to the Great Goddess <u>Astarte</u> (Roman <u>Juno</u>). ^[16] The cult of <u>Tanit</u> survived Carthage's destruction by the Romans; it was introduced to Rome itself by Emperor Septimius Severus, himself born in North Africa. It was extinguished completely with the Theodosian decrees of the late 4th century.
<u>Homer</u>		8th century BCE	Venerated at <u>Alexandria</u> by <u>Ptolemy IV Philopator</u> .
<u>Romulus and Remus</u>		771–717 BCE	Founders of <u>Rome</u> , sons of <u>Mars</u> , <u>Romulus</u> served as first king. Romulus was, according to the book <u>History of Rome</u> (written between 27 and 9 BC by the historian <u>Titus Livius</u>), the son of <u>Rhea Silvia</u> , a Vestal Virgin which became pregnant with the twins <u>Romulus</u> and <u>Remus</u> by the god <u>Mars</u> . ^[17] After his death, Romulus was defined as the god <u>Quirinus</u> , the divine persona of







			<p>the Roman people. Romulus ascension to heaven and deification as god Quirinus is mentioned in <u>Ovid's</u> poem <u>Metamorphoses</u>, Book 14 (written shortly before 8 AD). <u>Ovid</u> depicts god <u>Jupiter</u> promising Mars the right to translate his son Romulus to immortality.^[18] He is now regarded as a mythological figure, and his name a <u>back-formation</u> from the name Rome, which may ultimately derive from a word for "river". Some scholars, notably <u>Andrea Carandini</u> believe in the historicity of Romulus, in part because of the 1988 discovery of the <u>Murus Romuli</u> on the north slope of the Palatine Hill in Rome.^[19]</p>
<u>The Buddha</u>		563 BCE (?)	Treated as an avatar of <u>Vishnu</u> by some <u>Vaishnavas</u> .
<u>Pythagoras of Samos</u>		c. 570–495 BCE	Pythagoras was the eponymous founder of the religion of Pythagoreanism. ^[20] A posthumous legend claimed that Pythagoras was the mortal incarnation of the "Hyperborean Apollo" ^{[21][22]} and that he proved his divinity to Abaris the Hyperborean by showing him his golden thigh. ^[21]
<u>Hephaestion</u>		356–324 BCE	Deified by <u>Alexander the Great</u>
<u>Alexander the Great</u>		356–323 BCE	Some believe he implied he was a demigod by actively using the title "Son of <u>Ammon–Zeus</u> ". The title was bestowed upon him by Egyptian priests of the god Ammon at the Oracle of the god at the <u>Siwah oasis</u> in the <u>Libyan Desert</u> . ^[23]
<u>Antinous</u>		111–130 CE	Deified by Hadrian. He is the last non-Imperial human formally deified in Western civilization.
<u>Mary, Mother of Jesus</u>		300 CE	In 300 CE she was venerated as a Mother Goddess in the Christian sect Collyridianism, which was found throughout Thrace. Collyridianism was made up mostly of women followers and female priests.
<u>Guan Yu</u>		581–618 CE	Guan Yu was deified as early as the Sui dynasty and is still popularly worshipped today among the Chinese people variedly as an indigenous Chinese deity, a dharmapala in Buddhism and a guardian deity in Taoism. He is also held in high esteem in Confucianism. In Hong Kong both police and gangsters consider him a divine object of reverence. In certain schools of Taoism and Chinese Buddhism he has been deemed divine or semi-divine status. ^[24]
<u>Ali</u>		599–661 CE	According to the Alawite faith, Ali ibn Abi Talib is one member of a trinity (<i>Ali-Muhammad-Salman the Persian</i>) corresponding roughly to the Christian Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is considered the second emanation of God by Yarsan and the supreme deity in Ali-Allahism.

			
<u>Tan Goan-kong</u>		657–711 CE	Also known as Chen Yuanguang, he was a general and official in the Tang dynasty. He was deified and worshipped by the descendants of immigrants from Zhangzhou to Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia, all refer to him as the "Sacred Duke, Founder of Zhangzhou" (開漳聖王; <i>Kāi Zhāng shèngwáng</i> ; <i>Khai Chiang Sèng-ông</i>). ^[25]
<u>Sugawara no Michizane</u>		845–903 CE	Japanese Imperial courtier banished from the capital and deified upon his death to appease his angry spirit. Worshipped as <u>Tenjin</u> , <u>kami</u> of scholarship.
<u>Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah</u>		985–1021 CE	Sixth <u>Fatimid</u> Caliph in Egypt, ruling from 996 to 1021. The members of the <u>Druze</u> faith believe that the <u>Fatimid</u> Caliph Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah is the Mahdi. The Muslim scholar and early preacher Nashtakin ad-Darazi claimed that the Caliph was God incarnate. Because of that he was executed by Al-Hakim who did not proclaim he that he was God. The druze today do reject Ad-Darazi's preaching completely. ^{[26][27][28][29][30]}
<u>Tokugawa Ieyasu</u>		1616	Deified posthumously with the name Tōshō Daigongen by his successors.
<u>Hu Tianbao</u>		17th century	According to <i>What the Master Would Not Discuss</i> (Chinese: 子不語), written by Yuan Mei (Chinese: 袁枚) during the Qing dynasty, Tu'er Shen was a man named Hu Tianbao (胡天保) who fell in love with a very handsome imperial inspector of Fujian Province. One day he was caught peeping on the inspector through a bathroom wall, at which point he confessed his reluctant affections for the other man. The imperial inspector had Hu Tianbao sentenced to death by beating. One month after Hu Tianbao's death, he appeared to a man from his hometown in a dream, claiming that since his crime was one of love, the underworld officials decided to right the injustice by appointing him the god and safeguarder of homosexual affections. ^[31]
<u>Gauchito Gil</u>		1840s, allegedly 1847	Venerated as a <u>folk saint</u> and deity in <u>Argentina</u> .
<u>George Washington</u>		1865–present	Worshipped as a <u>kami</u> in <u>Hawaiian Shinto shrines</u> . ^[32] In the <u>United States Capitol dome</u> , he is also depicted ascending into Olympus and becoming a god, in the famous painting called <i>The Apotheosis of Washington</i> .









<u>Kanichi Otsuka</u>		1891–present	Shinreikyo states of its founder "God became one with a human body, appeared among humanity, and founded Shinreikyo." ^[33]
<u>Maria Franciszka Kozłowska</u>		c. 1924–present	At least some mariavites believe that God the Father became Mary, God the Son became Jesus and Holy Spirit became <u>Maria Franciszka Kozłowska</u> (1862–1921, an excommunicated Roman Catholic nun from Poland). It's difficult to tell whether she has deified herself or has been involuntary deified during her lifetime or posthumously deified. In 1967, <u>Archbishop Maria Rafael Wojciechowski</u> officially testified that in the 1936-1938 period, <u>Archbishop Maria Michał Kowalski</u> had written "Mother said to me that she was present at the creation of the world and that she arranged the world." (for "mother", he used the Polish word "mateczka" which is a diminutive and a title held by Maria Franciszka). ^{[34][35]}
<u>L. L. Zamenhof</u>		20th century–present	Considered a god by members of the <u>Oomoto</u> religion.
<u>José Rizal</u>		20th century–present	Deified by some people in the <u>Philippines</u> due to his contributions to the <u>Philippine Revolution</u> . ^{[36][37]}
<u>Wallace Fard Muhammad</u>		20th century–present	Posthumously (?) deified by <u>Elijah Muhammad</u> . He is also given other titles by the <u>Nation of Islam</u> . ^[38]
<u>Mother Teresa</u>		1997–present	Worshipped as a <u>Hindu</u> goddess by some inhabitants of <u>Kolkata</u> . ^[39]
<u>John Coltrane</u>		1967–1981	After Coltrane's death, a congregation called the Yardbird Temple in San Francisco began worshipping him as God incarnate. ^[40] The congregation became affiliated with the <u>African Orthodox Church</u> ; this involved changing Coltrane's status from a god to a saint. ^[40] The resultant St. John Coltrane African Orthodox Church, San Francisco, is the only African Orthodox church that incorporates Coltrane's music and his lyrics as prayers in its liturgy. ^[41]







Involuntary deification






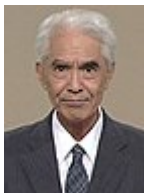


Who	Image	When	Notability
<u>Uzair</u>		?	The Quran claims that a group of Jews, often interpreted as the Yemenite Jews, believed "Uzair" was the son of God. [Quran 9:30 (https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A2002.02.0006%3Asura%3D9%3Averse%3D30)] ^[42] It is argued by some that Uzair was Ezra. Ezra established Second Temple Judaism ^[43] and is regarded as a very important figure in Judaism. ^[44] The concept of "son of God" as the God in the Flesh is strictly rejected in Judaism.
<u>Antiochus II Theos</u>		286–246 BCE	Seleucid ruler. The younger son of Antiochus I and Stratonice, succeeded his father in 261. He liberated Ephesus, Ionia, Cilicia and Pamphylia from Egyptian domination, and in return for their autonomy the cities of Asia Minor gave him the title Theos ("God"). ^[45]
<u>Paul the Apostle and Barnabas</u>		Autumn 49 CE ^[46]	According to a story recorded in the Book of Acts 14:8–18, the apostle Paul and his companion Barnabas healed a crippled man in the street in the town of Lystra in Asia Minor, during Paul's second missionary journey. ^[47] The townsfolk immediately mistook them for the Greek gods Hermes and Zeus respectively and attempted to offer sacrifices to them. ^[47]
<u>Master Qing Shui</u>		1047–1101	Chan Buddhist monk during the Northern Song in Anxi County, Quanzhou. He is said to have saved the town of Anxi during a period of drought, bringing rain as he went from place to place. In reverence, the villagers built temples dedicated to him and hence became a Deity in Chinese folk religion. ^[48]
<u>Zheng He</u>		1371–1433	Worshipped by some Chinese and South East Asians. ^[49]
<u>Kumari</u>		~17th century–present	These are little girls who are worshipped by both Hindus and Buddhists as the incarnation of the Hindu Goddess Durga (Nepali <i>Taleju</i>) in Nepal. They are picked when they are prepubescent and are worshipped until they reach puberty. Their cult is in South Asian countries, especially in Nepal.
<u>John Nicholson</u>		19th century–present	Inspired the cult of Nikal Seyn.
<u>Jiddu Krishnamurti</u>		1909–present	Renounced the status of messiah and Maitreya incarnation given him by the Theosophical Society.
<u>Haile Selassie I</u>		1930s–present	Among most followers of the Rastafari movement, Haile Selassie is seen as the second coming of Jesus Christ, God incarnate, the Black Messiah and "Earth's Rightful Ruler" who will also lead African peoples to freedom. Rastas say that his imperial titles (i.e. King of Kings,






			Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah, and Root of David) were prophesied as belonging to the returned Messiah in Revelation 5:5 (https://bible.oremus.org/?passage=Revelation%205:5&version=nrsv). Their faith in his divinity first appeared in Jamaica, soon after his 1930 coronation in Addis Ababa. ^[50] Before his coronation he was called Ras (meaning Prince) Tafari.
<u>Mary Baker Eddy</u>		1947–present	Founder of <u>Christian Science</u> , Eddy was first deified with the private publication of <u>The Destiny of The Mother Church</u> by Bliss Knapp. Although the book is distributed in <u>Christian Science</u> reading rooms, it is not considered authorised literature, and Eddy herself denied any comparison to Jesus and allegations of her being the Second Christ.
<u>Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh</u>		1950s–1960s–present	Considered a god in the village of Yaohnanen, a cargo cult in Vanuatu. ^[51] See <u>Prince Philip Movement</u> .
<u>Charles, Prince of Wales</u>		2021–present	Deified by the <u>Prince Philip Movement</u> in the village of Yaohnanen, upon the death of his father Prince Philip. ^[52]
<u>Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson</u>		1990s–present	While considered the messiah by most of his followers following his death in 1994, one group has deified him. ^[53]
<u>Raj Patel</u>		2010–present	In January 2010 some adherents of <u>Share International</u> , following an announcement by Benjamin Creme, concluded that <u>Patel could be the Maitreya</u> . ^[54] Patel has denied being the <u>Maitreya</u> . ^[54]

Self-deification

Who	Image	When	Notability
<u>Naram-Sin</u>		2255– 2119 BCE	The first Mesopotamian king to claim divinity. ^[55] He marked himself with the dingir symbol, a determinative for a divinity. After him, his son Shar-Kali-Sharri and then later Mesopotamian Kings would carry the tradition onwards. These kings included <u>Shulgi</u> , <u>Amar-Sin</u> , <u>Shu-Sîn</u> , and <u>Ibbi-Sîn</u> of the Ur III Dynasty; <u>Shu-ilishu</u> , <u>Iddin-Dagan</u> , <u>Ishme-Dagan</u> , <u>Lipit-Ishtar</u> , <u>Ur-Ninurta</u> , <u>Būr-Sîn</u> , <u>Lipit-Enlil</u> , <u>Erra-imitti</u> , <u>Enlil-bani</u> , <u>Zambiya</u> , <u>Iter-pûsha</u> , <u>Ur-dukuga</u> , <u>Sîn-magir</u> , <u>Damiq-ilishu</u> of the Isin Dynasty; and <u>Rim-Sîn I</u> and <u>Rim-Sîn II</u> of the <u>Larsa</u> Dynasty. ^[56]
<u>Shulgi</u>		2037– 2028 BCE	Brought back self-deification during the Ur III Period. ^[56]
<u>Amar-Sin</u>		2046- 2037 BCE	Succeeded Shulgi ^[56]
<u>Shu-Sin</u>		2037– 2028 BCE	Built Temples for himself. ^[56]
<u>Empedocles of Acragas</u>		c. 490 – c. 430 BCE	Empedocles of Acragas was a <u>Pre-Socratic philosopher</u> from the island of <u>Sicily</u> , who, in one of his surviving poems, declares himself to have become a "divine being... no longer mortal", ^[57] followed by descriptions of him performing activities normally reserved for the gods. ^[57] The later historian <u>Diogenes Laërtius</u> claimed that Empedocles committed <u>suicide</u> by jumping into <u>Mount Etna</u> in order to persuade people that he was an immortal god, ^[58] a legend which is also alluded to by the Roman poet <u>Horace</u> . ^[59]
<u>Pharnavaz I of Iberia</u>		326– 234 BCE	<u>Iberian</u> king (r. 299–234 BCE)
<u>Antiochus IV Epiphanes</u>		215– 164 BCE	Seleucid ruler (r. 175–164); the only Seleucid king to claim divine honors, calling himself Theos Epiphanes "God Manifest" and Nikephoros "Bringer of Victory." Nearly conquered <u>Ptolemaic Egypt</u> , the primary rival of the Seleucids among the <u>Diadochi</u> states. Famously attempted to impose <u>ancient Greek religion</u> on the Jews by persecution, leading to the <u>Maccabean Revolt</u> ; remembered as a major persecutor in Jewish tradition. ^[45]
<u>Antiochus I Theos</u>		c. 86 BCE– 38 BCE	King of <u>Commagene</u> who instituted a cult for himself and several syncretistic Graeco-Persian deities at <u>Mount Nemrud</u> and elsewhere. ^[60]
<u>Jesus of Nazareth</u>		1st century– present	As described in the <u>New Testament</u> , Jesus implied he was <u>God Incarnate</u> and the <u>Son of God</u> (see <u>Romans 1</u> for example). Therefore, he

			was rejected by the Jews (see <u>John 10:22-39</u> for example). The <u>First Council of Nicaea</u> of 325 CE crystallized this notion in the <u>Nicene Creed</u> and verified Jesus as God Incarnate. Early Christian denominations with different christologies such as the <u>Ebionites</u> fell in popularity, and he is now considered divine in most <u>Christian views of Jesus</u> (<u>God the Son</u> in Trinitarian Christianity).
<u>Simon Magus</u>		1st–4th century	Considered a god in <u>Simonianism</u> . According to <u>Irenaeus</u> , he "was glorified by many as if he were a god; and he taught that it was himself who appeared among the Jews as the Son, but descended in Samaria as the Father while he came to other nations in the character of the Holy Spirit. He represented himself, in a word, as being the loftiest of all powers, that is, the Being who is the Father over all, and he allowed himself to be called by whatsoever title men were pleased to address him." ^[61]
<u>Veleda</u>		1st century	Germanic prophetess considered a deity during her lifetime.
<u>Ismail I</u>		16th century	Self-claimed to be an emanation of God and was considered such by the <u>Kızılbaş-Safaviya order</u> , <u>Qizilbash-Turkman</u> subjects and <u>Alevis</u> . ^{[62][63][64]}
<u>Danila Filippovich</u>		1700	He believed that he was God and started the <u>Khlysts</u> . (There are various transliterations of his name including Danila Filipov, Danila Filipich, and Daniil Filippovich.) ^[65]
<u>Kondratii Selivanov</u>		1780s	Kondraty Selivanov proclaimed himself both as the late <u>Peter III of Russia</u> and Christ himself, and started the <u>Skopty</u> .
<u>Ghanshyam Pandey</u>		1781–1830	Guru and God of the <u>Swaminarayan Sect</u> . His followers consider him to be the most supreme of all gods (<u>Sarvopari</u>) and the original god who gives Powers to All including the prime Hindu gods:- Krishna, Shiva, Durga, Ganesh and Surya. ^[2] (https://www.baps.org/Spiritual-Living/Philosophy/Worship-of-God-with-the-Guru/God---Purna-Purushottam-Narayan.aspx) Some of his major disciples are accused of interpolating the original Sanskrit texts and for deliberate mistranslations of ancient Hindu scriptures in order to prove Ghanshyam Pandey as the supreme god; degrading the original Hindu gods. ^[3] (https://www.swaminarayangadi.com/publications/book.php?pid=114)
<u>Hong Xiuquan</u>		19th	Chinese man who claimed he was the younger brother of

		century	Jesus, and thus a son of God. Led the Taiping Rebellion, conquering a large part of China before defeat and suicide.
<u>Dios Buhawi</u>		~1887	Philippine <u>shaman</u> who called himself "God Whirlwind."
<u>Father Divine</u>		~20th century	His followers considered him <i>God in the flesh</i> . ^[66]
<u>Taher Saifuddin</u>		20th century	Claimed to be <u>Ilah'ul-Ard</u> (God on Earth) in Bombay High Court. ^{[67][68]}
<u>Lou de Palingboer</u>		20th century	A divorced Dutchman named Louwrens Voorthuijzen who proclaimed himself "Lou the Eel Vendor", this being the translation of his proclaimed name "Lou de Palingboer". He was a figure who mixed marketing European eels with proselytism. His followers also considered him a living God on a mission against evil. ^[69]
<u>Jehovah Wanyonyi</u>		20th century	"I am the one who created Adam and Eve. I made their bodies and their blood", [...] "I still use human beings by speaking through them, like I spoke through Jesus Christ until he went to Heaven." There are between 120 and 1000 followers who consider him to be God. ^{[70][71]}
<u>Sathya Sai Baba</u>		20th century	Hindu guru that followers believed was a reincarnation of an avatar of Dattatreya. He alleged that he had the ability to heal, raise the dead, appear in more than one location at the same time, materialize objects, such as jewellery, etc.
<u>Yahweh ben Yahweh</u>		20th century	He was born as Hulon Mitchell, Jr. and his self-proclaimed name means "God, Son of God." He could have only been deeming himself <i>son of God</i> , not God, but many of his followers clearly consider him God Incarnate. ^{[72][73]}
<u>Mitsuo Matayoshi</u>		20th century	In 1997 he established the World Economic Community Party (世界経済共同体党) based on his conviction that he is the God and Christ. ^[74]
<u>Meher Baba</u>		~1930	An Indian spiritual master who said he was the Avatar, ^{[75][76][77]} God in human form. ^{[78][79]}
<u>Mita</u>		~1940	According to the Mita faith, Mita (Peraza) was the incarnation of the <u>Holy Ghost</u> on earth. ^[80]

<u>Jim Jones</u>		1955	Founder of <u>Peoples Temple</u> , which started off as a part of a <u>mainstream Protestant denomination</u> before becoming a <u>personality cult</u> as time went on. One of Jones's devotees claimed that Jones said "If you see me as your savior, I'll be your savior. If you see me as your God, I'll be your God"; ^[81] however Jones also described himself as atheist. ^[82]
<u>Vissarion</u>		1961	Claims to be <u>Jesus Christ returned</u> , which makes him not "God" but the " <u>word of God</u> ".
<u>François Duvalier</u>		1960s -1970s	Haitian Dictator claimed that he was the physical embodiment of the island nation. Duvalier deliberately modeled his image on that of Baron Samedi, one of the <u>Iwa</u> , or spirits, of Haitian Vodou. He often donned sunglasses in order to hide his eyes and talked with the strong nasal tone associated with the <u>Iwa</u> . The regime's propaganda stated that "Papa Doc was one with the <u>Iwa</u> , <u>Jesus Christ</u> and <u>God</u> himself". ^[83] The most celebrated image from the time shows a standing Jesus Christ with a hand on the shoulder of a seated Papa Doc, captioned, "I have chosen him". ^[84] Duvalier declared himself an "immaterial being" as well as "the Haitian flag" soon after his first election. ^[85] In 1964, he published a catechism in which the <u>Lord's Prayer</u> was reworded to pay tribute to Duvalier instead of God. ^{[85][86]}
<u>Nirmala Srivastava</u>		1970	Guru and goddess of <u>Sahaja Yoga</u> , has proclaimed herself the incarnation of the <u>Holy Ghost</u> (Adi Shakti), claimed that all other incarnations (e.g., Krishna, Christ, etc.) were aspects of her. ^{[87][88]}
<u>Francisco Macías Nguema</u>		1978	In 1978, he changed the motto of Equatorial Guinea to "There is no other God than Macias Nguema." ^[89]
<u>Apollo Quiboloy</u>		1985	Calls himself as the "Appointed Son of God" in his own <u>Restorationist</u> church called the <u>Kingdom of Jesus Christ</u> . ^[90]
<u>Joseph Kony</u>		1987	Proclaims himself the spokesperson of God and a <u>spirit medium</u> , and has been considered by some as a <u>cult of personality</u> , and claims he is visited by a multinational host of 13 spirits, including a Chinese phantom.
<u>Ryuho Okawa</u>		1986	Founder of <u>Happy Science</u> , worshipped by his followers as 'El Cantare' and a reincarnation of <u>Elohim</u> , <u>Odin</u> , <u>Thoth</u> , <u>Osiris</u> , and <u>Buddha</u> . ^{[91][92]}

See also

- Advaita Vedanta
- Apotheosis
- Arahitogami
- Brahman
- Christ myth theory
- Cult of personality

- [Culture hero](#)
- [Divinity#Mortals](#)
- [Divinization \(Christian\)](#)
- [Euhemerism](#)
- [Folk saint](#)
- [God complex](#)
- [God in Hinduism](#)
- [Godman \(Hindu ascetic\)](#)
- [Hero cult](#)
- [Idolatry](#)
- [Imperial cult](#)
- [Incarnation](#)
- [List of avatar claimants](#)
- [List of Buddha claimants](#)
- [List of deities](#)
- [List of demigods](#)
- [List of Mahdi claimants](#)
- [List of messiah claimants](#)
- [List of people claimed to be Jesus](#)
- [Mahāvākyas](#)
- [Maitreya claimants](#)
- [Messiah complex](#)
- [Religion in ancient Rome](#)
- [Sacred king](#)
- [Shaktyavesha Avatar](#)
- [Tat Tvam Asi](#)
- ["Thou Art God"](#)
- [Veneration of the dead](#)

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85. Kofele-Kale, Ndiva (2006). "The Cult of State Sovereignty" (https://books.google.com/books?id=Q4gonlG_enoC&pg=PA261). *The International Law of Responsibility for Economic Crimes* (2nd ed.). Aldershot, England: Ashgate Publishing. p. 261. ISBN 978-1-4094-9609-0. LCCN 2006006433 (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2006006433>). OCLC 64289359 (<https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/64289359>). OL 7991049M (<https://openlibrary.org/books/OL7991049M>). "Not satisfied with being the Haitian flag, . . . Duvalier also declared himself 'an immaterial being' shortly after he became 'President-for-Life', and issued a *Catechisme de la Révolution* to the faithful containing the following version of the Lord's Prayer: 'Our Doc, who art in the National Palace for Life, hallowed be Thy name by present and future generations. Thy will be done in Port-au-Prince as it is in the provinces. Give us this day our new Haiti and forgive not the trespasses of those antipatriots who daily spit on our country; lead them into temptation, and, poisoned by their own venom, deliver them from no evil . . .'"
86. Fourcand, Jean M. (1964). *Catechisme de la révolution* (http://s3.amazonaws.com/fightimpunity/text_langs/txts/000/000/018/original/Cat%C3%A9chisme_de_la_r%C3%A9volution_duvali%C3%A9riste.pdf#page=28) [*Catechism of the Revolution*] (PDF) (in French). Port-au-Prince: *Edition imprimerie de l'état*. p. 37. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20150927025732/http://s3.amazonaws.com/fightimpunity/text_langs/txts/000/000/018/original/Cat%C3%A9chisme_de_la_r%C3%A9volution_duvali%C3%A9riste.pdf#page=28) (PDF) from the original on 27 September 2015. "Notre Doc qui êtes au Palais National pour la Vie, que Votre nom soit béni par les générations présentes et futures, que Votre Volonté soit faite à Port-au-Prince et en Province. Donnez-nous aujourd'hui notre nouvelle Haïti, ne pardonnez jamais les offenses des apatrides qui bavent chaque jour sur notre Patrie, laissez-les succomber à la tentation et sous le poids de leurs baves malfaisantes: ne les délivrez d'aucun mal. Amen."
87. Judith Coney, *Sahaja Yoga: Socializing Processes in a South Asian New Religious Movement* (1999) p. 27 "She began her mission of salvation in earnest, establishing a reputation as a faith healer ... Then, on December 2nd 1979, in London, she unequivocally declared her divinity to her followers: '[Today] is the day I declare that I am the One who has to save the humanity. I declare, I am the one who is Adi Shakti, who is the Mother of all the mothers, who is the Primordial Mother, the Shakti, the purest desire of God, who has incarnated on this Earth to give meaning to itself...' Since then, she is most often understood by her followers to be the Devi, the Goddess of Indian mythology, returned to save the world."
88. ::Sahaja Yoga-Tamil:: Adi Sakthi By Thirumoolar (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090306201943/http://www.tnsahaj.org/AdiSakthiByThirumoolar.htm>)
89. "Macias Nguema: Ruthless and bloody dictator" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20160313200255/http://afroarticles.com/article-dashboard/article.php?id=117291>). Afroarticles.com. Archived from the original (<http://www.afroarticles.com/article-dashboard/article.php?id=117291>) on 2016-03-13. Retrieved 2014-04-20.
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91. Kestenbaum, Sam (16 April 2020). "Inside the Fringe Japanese Religion That Claims It Can Cure Covid-19" (<https://www.nytimes.com/article/happy-science-japan-coronavirus-cure.html>). *The New York Times*.
92. "Happy Science Is the Laziest Cult Ever" (<https://www.vice.com/en/article/jmvan4/my-afternoon-with-a-failed-japanese-cult>).

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